

THE STATE

of the CITY
ADDRESS

CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER

February 13, 2006

DELIVERED BY

The Honorable Mayor
Carl B. Hutcherson, Jr.

&
The Honorable Vice Mayor
Joan F. Foster



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To my fellow members of City Council, City Manager Kim Payne, Deputy City Manager Bonnie Svrcek, members of the City administration, ladies and gentlemen, good evening and welcome to the State of the City.

Tonight, Vice Mayor Joan Foster and I have the privilege of speaking with you about the past year. And what a year it's been. We have seen great progress, some challenges, and many wonderful opportunities.

Residents have much to be proud of in Lynchburg. This is a beautiful city and its citizens are good, caring people. We have a community in which we know each other, take care of each other in times of need, care about each other's children, and, in general, believe that we are all people of worth. In Lynchburg we care.

We show we care when a congregation from Victory Christian Fellowship Church comes together to build two houses for the sole purpose of providing temporary housing for families displaced by fire. We show we care when children build lemonade stands to raise money for victims of disaster. We show we care when citizens volunteer their time to serve as advocates for victims of crime through the CASA program and we show we care when we become lunch buddies to a young person in need of mentoring. We care.

Earlier this year, when thousands lost everything to Hurricane Katrina thousands of you opened your hearts to our fellow Americans. You gave money, clothing, and household goods. Some of you left the comfort of your own homes and traveled to the hurricane ravaged areas to volunteer your services. And still there were those of who took on the massive responsibility of serving as collections sites for donations. I would like to give a special thanks to Chris Tharp and his staff for being one of the first collection sites for hurricane relief set up in the City. I know they gave greatly of their time and assistance. Chris and some of his staff are with us tonight. Please join me in thanking them.

I know all of you love this City and that you join me in wanting it to remain as a viable and sustainable community. It is imperative that we in government do what we can to make this possible and that the citizens of Lynchburg are able to prosper. Every reasonable effort must be made to retain and expand existing businesses as well as attract new businesses and industries to Lynchburg. If we are successful in doing so,

we take an important step in ensuring our families, all of our families, will be able to thrive.

Thanks to the efforts of our City administration, especially our Office of Economic Development, last year we announced Automated Industrial Technologies' decision to locate in the Lynchpin Industrial Center with a \$1 million dollar investment and 26 new jobs and the Civic Development Group announced its decision to open a call center, adding 200 new jobs and making an investment of over \$1 million dollars.

We welcome these new companies and others that will be attracted to Lynchburg in the future. We are also very much aware that it is the businesses and industries that are already here that constitute the backbone of Lynchburg's economic well-being; and that is why it is so critical that these existing Lynchburg businesses elect to stay and reinvest in our community.

In 2005, several companies, including Ambec, Framatome/ Areva, Tri-Tech, Boxley, AIT, and RiversEdge Furniture all expanded or built new facilities. Collectively, they re-invested more than \$8 million dollars and created over 160 new jobs. The message is clear—Lynchburg is a great place to do business!

Even though we have had success in attracting and retaining businesses we still have an unemployment rate of 4 - 5% and according to the 2000 U.S. Census 19.5 % percent of our families with children under the age of 18 live below the poverty level. There any number of reasons for this and some are beyond our purview to solve, however, we know that employment is critically important to the well-being of our families. What can we do to improve the economic condition of our families?

First of all, a quality education for our children is critical to our success. Our schools play an important role in the stabilization of our families, and in the ability of citizens to be prepared to work. Thankfully, we can be very proud of our stellar public school system. Lynchburg City Schools offers many exceptional opportunities for students and thanks to the leadership of the Lynchburg City School Board and Superintendent Dr. Paul McKendrick, the administrative team is working very hard to support and continue the tremendous achievements and accreditation growth earned by the students, faculty, and staff.

Students attending Lynchburg Public Schools receive an education that prepares them to be successful in the global market and workforce, prepares them to be productive citizens and contributing members of our society. Last year, a young man from Lynchburg graduated summa cum laude from Harvard University. His name is David

Camden and he is a product of the Lynchburg Public School system and – great parents of course. This former Heritage High School student, as well as many of our young people, is a testament to the quality of our schools. We are honored to have David's parents with us this evening, Mr. and Mrs. Camden, welcome.

Our new governor Tim Kaine has signed an Executive Order establishing the Start Strong Council with the goal of developing statewide goals and best practices for expanding opportunities for 4-year olds to access quality pre-kindergarten programs. Statistics show that early childhood education is critical to a child's success later in life. I applaud Lynchburg City Schools for continuing their commitment to providing early childhood education by adding additional pre-kindergarten classes and for giving more 4-year olds a tremendous start in their education and we thank the State for fully funding this effort. We ask the State to continue to fully fund this program so more children as possible have this opportunity.

According to local businesses and industries, there is a great demand for employees that are technically trained. As parents we often believe, sometimes mistakenly, that our children must have a college degree in order to be successful in life. There is nothing wrong with that goal. But some children will not go to college because they may not have the aptitude or because they wish to follow a different path. The Lynchburg City School system offers career-technical programs that provide instruction in 13 different technical areas beginning as early as middle school. Coupled with technical training through Central Virginia Community College, students have the opportunity to receive a well rounded course of technical skills that will prepare them for obtaining well paying careers.

Despite being an urban school system, Lynchburg City Schools is working hard to meet its challenges. The school division is not looking at the deficit model of making excuses, but instead, is finding answers and solutions that will continue the success for our school division. Every challenge presents the opportunity to improve and this is great for all children and families in the City of Lynchburg.

As wonderful as our educational opportunities are, the school system can only do so much. Parents must also make education an important family value. Sadly, some parents have never visited their child's school; some never attend teacher's conferences or become involved with their child's education in anyway. When this happens it should not be a surprise that a child does not do well in school. Parents must take personal responsibility for their children's education and not leave it to the school system. It is a partnership among the parents, the child, and the school system. When parents

abdicate their responsibility, the school system is overly taxed, children have great difficulty in succeeding in school and no one wins.

“... school has always been the most important means of transferring the wealth of tradition from one generation to the next. This applies today in an even higher degree than in former times, for through modern development of the economic life, the family as bearer of tradition and education has been weakened. The continuance and health of human society is therefore in a still higher degree dependent on the school than formerly.” Albert Einstein said that over 50 years ago. Parents, I encourage you to create a foundation for your children so they may have a chance to have a fruitful and successful future.

Education is not limited to our schools and colleges. When we speak about education we should also recognize the important role that our public libraries play. Last year, the Lynchburg Public Library sponsored a number of successful community outreach programs including Lynchburg Reads, a community reading program with over 600 participants; the Gates PC Lab with over 5,000 students taking classes in basic computer skills; and GUS the Learning Bus, a collaborative project with the Lynchburg City Schools. GUS was funded with a federal grant as part of the United Way’s Success by 6 program. The program helps to build pre-kindergarten readiness skills in children two, three, and four year olds and parenting skills in their parents and caregivers. We congratulate Lynn Dodge and her staff for providing these programs and for making such an impact on the patrons.

This year the Lynchburg Public Library celebrates its 40th anniversary. It is hard to believe that just a short 40 years ago, a small group of citizens, both black and white, came together to talk about how to establish a library that would be accessible to all residents, regardless of race. These individuals worked tirelessly and the outcome was Lynchburg’s first, truly public library. What a difference just a few people can make.

Strong neighborhoods are another important factor in ensuring the success of our families. Every law-abiding citizen deserves to feel safe inside their homes and in their neighborhoods. Unfortunately, we know that is not always the reality. The Lynchburg Police Department does a fine job and in 2005, we had the lowest crime rate ever to be recorded in the City’s history. That’s something in which we all can be proud. But once again, we can not depend entirely on the Police Department or any other government agency to rid our City of crime. The prevention of crime—particularly crime involving residential neighborhoods—is a responsibility that must be shared equally by the police and private citizens.

The fact is the impact on crime prevention by public safety alone is minimal when compared with the power of private citizens working with the police and with each other. I strongly believe that we, as citizens, must take ownership of our neighborhoods if we are to realize any change. Government certainly has a role to play and we will continue our commitment to work for the betterment of our neighborhoods. But citizens must take a stand and let those that would destroy our neighborhoods know that their behavior will not be tolerated. Citizens must work together to find solutions to community problems and I encourage you to become involved. Get to know your neighbors, take advantage of organizations like neighborhood watch and work with us to take back ownership of our neighborhoods.

Our families must have decent, safe, and affordable housing. Without this, families have trouble managing their daily lives and their children's safety, health and development suffer. The City is committed to doing what it can to alleviate substandard housing especially for those that are some of our most vulnerable citizens. In July 2005, the City established the Rental Inspection Program. This program is aimed at rooting out code violations in rental properties.

The Rental Inspection Program is already showing signs of great promise and has identified approximately 400 violations in rental properties with a number of inspections yet to perform. Violations, some as simple as peeling paint and deteriorated siding to potentially life threatening situations like electrical hazards and inoperable smoke alarms have been identified and corrected. These inspectors are dedicated public servants and we thank them for the job they do.

Our Lead Safe Lynchburg Program continues to work with residents living in homes built before 1978 to assist in lead abatement and education. The Lynchburg Housing and Redevelopment Authority, Lynchburg Community Action Group, Habitat for Humanity, the Lynchburg Neighborhood Development Foundation, as well as other organizations and agencies work diligently so that our citizens have decent, safe, and affordable housing. But these opportunities are not gifts. Those families on the receiving end must make a personal investment in being assets in their neighborhoods.

Employment through continued economic development, education and training, safe and affordable housing, community involvement and personal responsibility, strong neighborhoods, are all ingredients for a sustainable, livable community, our community.

The late President Lyndon Johnson said, "The American city should be a collection of communities where every member has a right to belong. It should be a place where every man feels safe on his streets and in the house of his friends. It should be a place where each individual's dignity and self-respect is strengthened by the respect and affection of his neighbors. It should be a place where each of us can find the satisfaction and warmth which comes from being a member of the community of man. This is what man sought at the dawn of civilization. It is what we seek today."

I ask you to continue to work with us so we may say that Lynchburg, Virginia is that type of community-not because of government but because of you, the citizens have helped to make it so.



Honorable Vice Mayor Foster

Several years ago, former mayor Jim Whitaker created the Mayor's Award of Excellence to recognize citizens that had made a positive impact on the Lynchburg community through their volunteerism and community involvement. Later this evening we will recognize 13 residents that have given numerous hours of their time and effort to improve this City. They don't do what they do for the recognition or the accolades. They are driven, not by money or awards, but by a deep sense of commitment and love for this City and its residents. Immediately following this address we will formally recognize them but for now please join me in welcoming the 2006 Mayor's Award of Excellence and the 2006 Young Adult Award of Excellence recipients: Dr. Thomas and Ellen Nygaard, Lucy Guggenheimer Ross, John Doyle, Jr., Louie Robinson, Valerie Robinson, Kelvin Moore, Barbara Salisbury, Wayne Dahlgren, Laura Dupuy, Augustus A. Petticolas, Jr., and M.W. Thornhill, Jr., Teal McClure, Duane Thomas, Tracey Dixon.

In a few weeks, the City Manager will send his proposed 2007 fiscal year budget to City Council. We know that although our population has grown, our revenue has not. Unfortunately, the cost of meeting the needs of the community has. There are several capital improvement projects on the table that we must address including the completion of the renovation of E.C. Glass High School and the commencement of renovations to Sandusky and Heritage Middle Schools. Our Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court is overcrowded and does not meet security standards and we must find a solution to this problem. Lynchburg residents are becoming more active and while this adds greatly to the quality of life, we are seeing an impact on the City's athletic fields. The fields

are being used so extensively that we must find some way to better manage them. A joint taskforce with the City and Schools has been formed to assess the state of the City's athletic fields and set long term goals for the improvement and development of fields. There will be opportunities for citizens to participate in the effort and I encourage you to help us in this effort. Our City employees are our greatest assets and we are committed to ensuring that they receive adequate compensation for the services they provide to this community. The City shares the same concerns as the private sector when it comes to the continued escalation of health care costs for our employees and there are no easy answers to reducing these costs.

I applaud our City Manager and his staff for his continued efforts to find ways to reduce unnecessary expenditures. Last year, the City launched the Tangible Cost Savings Program to encourage City employees to look for ways to cease unnecessary or under-utilized programs and processes and to seek out ways to increase revenue to the City. This is a creative way for employees who are the closest to City operations to share in the cost savings and revenue, and to be creative in the process. We have with us tonight an employee from the Information Technology department who recently identified, through hard work and a lot of extra effort, a way to sell the City's old telephone system at a significant higher price than anticipated. Won't you join me in thanking, Maxey Wilkerson.

As we face the financial challenges of escalating fuel costs, increased maintenance of facilities, health care costs, and other challenges, there doesn't seem like there will be much relief in the foreseeable future. Each year, when we hold the public hearing regarding the budget, very few citizens come out to express their opinion regarding the funding of the myriad services and programs that the City provides. I know that I speak for every Council member when I say how important it is that we hear from our constituents as we begin to make budgetary decisions. We are here to serve you and we want you as active participants in our decision making.

Last year the City's Budget Division received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association. This award is the highest form of recognition in governmental budgeting. I congratulate the Budget staff. If any of you are here tonight please stand so we may thank you for your expertise and professionalism.

Whether it is providing online payment of bills, better access to information or any number of other services, process improvement through better use of technology continues to be an important part of service delivery. This past year the City received a

Digital Cities award for utilizing information technology to operate and deliver quality service to our customers and citizens. We will continue to explore ways to use technology to deliver the services you need both efficiently and effectively.

Earlier the Mayor spoke about the work being done by the Police Department. I congratulate them tonight in being accredited for the fifth year in a row by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. Accreditation means that the citizens of Lynchburg can be assured that its police force has met the highest professional standards. Last year the department also received first place in its division for Operation HeatWave, a statewide effort of law enforcement agencies to increase public awareness of the Help Eliminate Auto Theft program.

Our Fire Department is currently undergoing an accreditation process and we have great confidence that they will be successful in this effort. The Department also recently completed an extensive review of its standards of response cover. We thank former Fire Chief Buddy Martinette and his very capable staff for their excellent work. Interim Fire Chief Brad Ferguson has joined us tonight and we thank you Brad for continuing that work.

In 2005, Lynchburg was also recognized by the Virginia Municipal League and the City County Communications and Marketing Association for its downtown revitalization efforts. Lynch's Landing and the City of Lynchburg was also honored by Virginia Main Street with a Milestone Award for achieving more than \$25 million in private investment and for having more than 35,000 hours of volunteer investment. Last year the new Federal Court House was completed with a more than \$16 million dollar federal investment. Five other downtown buildings and five additional building interiors were renovated by private investors resulting in an investment of almost forty million dollars.

The City has made sizeable financial investments in downtown and those investments are paying off with ever increasing investments from the private sector. These investors are realizing what many of us have been saying for years, and that is that downtown revitalization makes sense. Now, that's worth celebrating!

A couple of weeks ago, a stage production was held at the KTMA studio at Riverviews Artspace called The New Neighborhood. I was struck by the comments of the writer/director, the very talented Mr. Hiawatha Johnson said in effect that who would have thought that downtown Lynchburg would experience such a change, but it has. Downtown Lynchburg is the new neighborhood, an exciting blend of what can

occur through the collective efforts of public/private entities, citizens, and businesses. Looking at downtown today is like reading the hopes, aspirations, and pride of everyone who built it and re-built it and we must continue to work towards realizing that vision.

Just a few days ago we learned that Rachel Flynn, our Director of Community Planning and Development would be leaving the City to take a similar position in Richmond. We congratulate her and wish her only the best. However, we will also miss her. Rachel has been a great asset to this City. Her vision, her hard work, and her leadership have contributed greatly to the revitalization of downtown. Rachel can be proud of her work to complete the City's Comprehensive Plan, the Midtown Plan, her work with the historic district, the Fifth Street Corridor Plan, and so much more. We owe her great deal of gratitude and the City of Richmond is lucky to have her. Ladies and Gentlemen, please join me in thanking Rachel for what she has given this city and for the legacy she leaves behind.

The work downtown and throughout this City will continue as we work together with the citizens of Lynchburg to preserve the City's history and prepare it to take advantage of a bright future.

The Department of Social Services was recognized by the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee (JLARC) in two studies last year. One was a study on the effectiveness of the State Social Services System which recognized the quality of Lynchburg's performance management system. A second study on client self sufficiency recognized our success collaborating with community partners and our success preparing welfare recipients for employment experiences which increase income and enhance job retention. We congratulate them and all employees who take great pride in their services to the citizens of this community.

Lastly, I want to thank a special group of people for completing a rather unusual and difficult project last year. Many of you may remember the flood of 1985, during which time a railroad tank car took up residence along our riverfront. Thanks to a lot of planning, creativity, and Herculean persistence, a group comprised of City employees and other public agencies, as well as, employees from Glenn Trent, Counts & Dobyns, and Ferebee-Johnson, the tank car is no longer an ugly eyesore on our riverfront. Many of the members of that group are with us tonight. Please thank them for their efforts.



Honorable Mayor Carl B. Hutcherson, Jr.

Thank you Joan. We have so much to celebrate in Lynchburg. For example we recently completed our third Citizens Academy with 20 citizens who made the commitment to participate in 11 weeks of learning about city government. That was a huge commitment and we are appreciative of the citizens that participated in the Academy. Some of the graduates from the 2005 and previous classes are with us tonight. Won't you please stand so we may recognize all of you?

We have shared a number of successes with you tonight. Not all of this community's successes are attributed to the work of government. Our community is truly blessed to have one of the best health care systems in the country. Lynchburg General Hospital was once again named one of the 100 Top Hospitals in the country and I know from personal experiences that we have one of the best heart centers in the country. My family and I are very thankful for that.

Centra Health also received the nation's highest honor for nursing services from the American Nurses Credentialing Center. The award, earned by less than 160 hospitals in the country, recognizes excellence in 14 rigorous standards that touch all aspects of superior nursing, from patient care quality to nursing education and leadership. We offer our congratulations to them.

I wish to close the same way I began by saying that this community cares. Last year four of our fellow citizens passed away. In 2003, we recognized Ron Dolan for his commitment to this community. Ron is no longer with us and his passing has left a great void. In August we laid to rest the man that will forever be known as the Coach, Jimmie Bryan. Coach devoted his life to young athletes and served this community well as Mayor. We also lost two other former Council members, John McCormick who played an instrumental role in bringing E-911 to the City and Jim Curling, a well-known sports enthusiast and an avid supporter of Lynchburg's Senior Programs at the Parks and Recreation Department. The community lost many other citizens, some of note, others known only to their loved ones, but each passing leaves a tear in the fabric of this City. We honor them this evening.

Tonight, is the last time I will give the State of the City Address. I thank you for this once in a lifetime opportunity. As I am sure you know, I have decided not to seek re-election in May. What you might not know is that I had made this decision before my current personal problems occurred. I made that decision after much deliberation and I will admit that it was one of the most difficult decisions I have had to make. I did

so for some simple reasons. This year I was blessed to turn 62 years old. I don't think that's very old but tomorrow is not promised to any of us. It is time for me to slow down a little, spend more time with my family, play with my grandchildren a little more and do some of the things that I've wanted to do but didn't have the time.

You have allowed me to spend ten years on City Council and I am thankful. I know that recent events have caused some of you to lose confidence in me and I am truly sorry for that. I only ask that you wait until I have had my day in court before you pass your final judgment.

I love this City and the people who live here. So many good, positive things have happened in this City and I am both humbled and proud to have been a small part of it. I was recently asked how I wanted to be remembered after my term on Council ends. I had not really thought about what legacy I would leave before but tonight I think there are two quotes that sort of sums it all up for me.

The first quote is by the renowned poet Maya Angelou who said "I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

I hope that I have helped make you proud to be a resident of this great City and that I have touched you as much as you have touched me.

The second quote is attributed to the late Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, who when asked how he wanted to be remembered simply said, "I'd like them to say...He did the best he could with what he had."

Ladies and gentlemen, may God bless each of you and may God continue to bless the City of Lynchburg. Good night.



MAYOR'S AWARD OF EXCELLENCE CEREMONY

Tonight we honor and celebrate 15 Lynchburg residents that have made a significant impact on this community through their volunteerism and commitment to the City and its residents. Our fellow members of City Council will assist us.

Joan told you about the group that successfully worked together to remove the abandoned tank car from the James River. The City employees who participated in that effort were recognized late last year but we wanted to take time tonight to recognize the businesses that were integral in the success of that effort. I'd like to ask the representatives of Counts & Dobyns, Ferebee-Johnson, and Glenn Trent to come forward so we may publicly thank them.

These individuals and companies made it possible for the removal of the tank car at no cost to the taxpayers. Congratulations!

And now, the Mayor's Award of Excellence...

WAYNE DAHLGREN

Wayne Dahlgren has a vision for Lynchburg. He sees Lynchburg as one of the best places to live in America and he has been an active participant in making that dream a reality. Wayne has served for six years on the Lynchburg Planning Commission and was its chairman for five of those years. During his tenure on the Commission he has helped develop and present to Council a plan for just about every aspect of City life, including the Comprehensive Plan, the Downtown Plan, the Tyreeanna/Pleasant Valley Plan, the Fifth Street Plan, the Mid-Town Plan, and the Sign Ordinance. Other planning commission projects he has worked on include a Greenway project, appointment of a Citizens Monitoring Committee, the Landscape Ordinance, and designated Historic Districts.

Wayne also sits on the boards of the Lynchburg Historical Foundation and the Adult Care Center of Central Virginia. He is currently organizing a "First Tee" program in cooperation with the US Golf Association and the Professional Golfers Association that is designed to teach young people life skills through golf. We all owe him a great deal of thanks for his contribution to this City. Congratulations Wayne!

LAURA DUPUY

Laura Dupuy possesses a strong innate sense of social justice-a trait that has propelled her into improving housing opportunities for Lynchburg citizens. As the executive director of the Lynchburg Neighborhood Development Foundation and the Lynchburg Community Loan Fund, Laura finances and develops housing in the Central Virginia area, enabling citizens of low and moderate income to live in safe, decent and affordable homes. Many of these citizens are first-time homebuyers. It is safe to say that no one can leverage finances the way Laura does. She and her staff put in many hours working with clients, talking with contractors, and meeting with neighborhoods. Houses that were once eyesores and dilapidated are rehabilitated and go from being abandoned structures to being homes for families.

Even after she assists with housing efforts, her passion moves her to get involved in additional quality of life programs in our community. She participates in development committees for local children's arts organizations such as the Dance Theatre of Lynchburg and Amazement Square. Laura currently serves on the boards of the Johnson Community Health Care Center and Friends of Rivermont, a historic preservation group.

In July 2003, she was appointed by Governor Warner to serve on the Virginia Fair Housing Board. Her past associations include board positions with the Lynchburg League of Women Voters and Miriam's House.

Please join me in thanking Laura Dupuy for her dedication to our community!

DR. AUGUSTUS PETTICOLAS, JR.

Our next recipient has spent 30 years experience in the dental profession. While it's seldom that we are happy to see a dentist, Dr. Augustus Petticolas is the exception. In addition to his regular practice, he has helped those in need by giving numerous hours of dental service to the Free Clinic of Central Virginia.

Gus was also instrumental in the development of The Free Clinic and serves as a founding board member and its past president. He was nominated for the Virginia Community Service Award by the Lynchburg Dental Society in March 2001 and the Karen Goodwin Volunteering Excellence Award in 2004 because of his community service.

He is involved in many other areas of the Lynchburg community as well and has served on a number of local community boards and committees. Gus currently serves on the Board of Directors for Centra Health and the Free Clinic of Central Virginia. He is a life member of the Lynchburg Chapter of the NAACP, and the National Alumni Association of Livingston College.

Smile ladies and gentleman, and assist me in congratulating Dr. Augustus Petticolas.

KELVIN MOORE

Kelvin Moore is an architect by trade and specializes in the design of worship facilities, commercial and multipurpose buildings. He is also an architect by choice and believes that families must have a firm foundation if they are to be successful. The single father of three, a daughter and twin sons, he has always taken an interest in education and serves on the board of the Lynchburg City School's Foundation and the Partners in Education Program.

Kelvin has been involved with the Central Virginia Achiever's Program, the Central Virginia Governor's School, the Greater Lynchburg Chamber of Commerce, the Legacy Museum, Planning Commission, Historic Preservation Commission, the YMCA, and the National Conference of Community and Justice.

Now that his daughter has graduated from Radford University and his sons will soon graduate from the University of Virginia with degrees in architecture, Kelvin has a little more time on his hand. He's put that extra time into good use and is a co-owner with his daughter of Captain Moe's Seafood Restaurant & Market. Kelvin works hard to build a better community for all Lynchburg citizens. We thank him for his commitment. Congratulations Kelvin.

LUCY GUGGENHEIMER ROSS

Education for all is extremely important to our next recipient. Lucy Guggenheimer Ross has dedicated her professional career to helping special students receive an education that will prepare them to be successful in their adult life. She almost single-handedly founded New Vistas School in 1986. Since then, New Vistas has made a dramatic difference in the lives of students and parents by creating a unique individualized educational program accessible to those who need it most.

The goal of New Vistas is to help its students make a successful re-entry into the educational mainstream. The students that come to New Vistas struggle in the traditional classroom setting, but at New Vistas they find a safe, nurturing environment intended to foster personal growth, positive self-esteem, and encourage personal responsibility and productive citizenship. A dedicated volunteer as well, Lucy has been most active in projects with the Junior League of Lynchburg, including Project Cornerstone and Opportunity House.

She has served on the Mental Health Advisory Committee, on the boards of the Learning Disabilities Association, Elizabeth's Early Learning Center, and the Churches for Urban Ministry. Many of community's children are leading better and more successful lives because she didn't give up on them, and we are so grateful. Thank you, and please accept this award as a token of our appreciation for your commitment to education.

M. W. THORNHILL, JR.

M. W. Thornhill, Jr., is a man who has worn many hats. He has owned the Community Funeral Home on historic Fifth Street for over 50 years and was a leader in the City's civil rights movement. Teedy, as he is affectionately known throughout the City, served on Lynchburg City Council for 16 years and was the City's first African - American mayor.

His community work includes membership and president of the Lynchburg Voters League for 40 years, former president of the Lynchburg Branch of the N.A.A.C.P., devoted membership at Court Street Baptist Church and a member of the Revelers Club.

While on City Council he worked with the City's first E-911 system, implemented City Council's first annual planning session, supported the implementation of the Police Department's DARE Program, worked on annexation immunity for the Airport, helped start the Lynchburg Visitor's Center, and was a part of major milestones in Lynchburg, the Neighborhood Initiatives Program, the City's Bicentennial Celebration, Lynchburg's All America City designation, the building of the John Lynch Bridge, remodeling City Hall, as assisted in the hiring of our first economic development director.

Teedy worked diligently to make Lynchburg the best it could be. Never one to shy away from controversy, he was a voice for those that had historically been ignored. Tonight we recognize the legacy that is M. W. Thornhill, Jr. His health does not permit him to be with us tonight, but we welcome his wife Mrs. Thornhill, who will be accepting the award on his behalf.

DR. AND MRS. THOMAS NYGAARD

This is the first time we have presented a Mayor's Award of Excellence to a husband and wife team but I can't think of any other couple that deserves it more. Thomas and Ellen Nygaard are well-known in this community for their volunteerism and community involvement, as well as for their professions.

Tom is director of Centra Health's cardiac catheterization laboratories and the medical director of cardiology for Stroobants Heart Center of Virginia. He took a circuitous route before coming to Lynchburg, having been born in Norway, raised in Georgia, and educated in Maryland. In 1986 he came to Lynchburg to establish the cardiac catheterization laboratory and to expand cardiac services in central Virginia.

According to Centra Health officials, the Center couldn't have happened without him. He worked tirelessly and now the Stroobants Heart Center is one of the best in the Nation.

He currently serves as the President of Cardiovascular Associates of Central Virginia and Vice Chairman on the Board of Directors for Centra Health. He has been named as one of the Best Doctors in America for the last 10 years.

Ellen Nygaard also has a medical background. She has worked in various nursing positions at Johns Hopkins, Union Memorial and the University of Virginia Hospitals. She currently works as a Research Nurse with the Education and Research Foundation.

Ellen's volunteer and community work is extensive. She served on the Lynchburg City School Board for nine years and was the chair from 1998 until 2000.

She is also a board member for the Voices for Children organization, Friends of the Library, president of the Public Library Board, and serves on the Board of Trustees for Lynchburg College. She has volunteered with Alliance for Families and Children, the Partnership for the Prevention of Substance Abuse, and numerous other organizations.

Tom and Ellen's love for this community shows in both their professional and personal lives. We are proud to honor them both this evening.

VALERIE ROBINSON

Valerie Robinson has spent the past 15 years helping young people in the White Rock community reach their full potential. She currently serves as the director of the White Rock Hill Education Center. Among her many accomplishments, Valerie implemented a program to provide nutritious dinners for the children in the White Rock Hill neighborhood knowing that a malnourished child would not do well in school.

When she's not spending long hours at the Center, Valerie serves on the boards of the Lynchburg Community Loan Fund and the Neighborhood Alliance Network. She is also a certified Arise Life Skill Instructor, Lead Risk Assessor, and Lead Worker.

Valerie also serves on an advisory committee with Bass Elementary School and helped to develop and implement the White Rock Hill Literacy Program for first and second graders. We thank her for her hard work and commitment to young people. Congratulations Valerie!

BARBARA SALISBURY

Our next recipient is Barbara Salisbury. Barbara has only lived in Lynchburg for five years but has made a significant impact on this community. As a community advocate, Ms. Salisbury has worked for two years with the Lynchburg Area Center for Independent Living and has volunteered her services as an advocate in the areas of transportation, education, and housing. Some of her committee work has included: chairperson of the ADA Advisory Committee with GLTC, vice chair of the Central Virginia Regional Transportation Services Coalition, and she was recently appointed to the Board of Directors of GLTC.

Additionally, Ms. Salisbury has served on advisory committees with the Lynchburg City Schools including the Special Education Advisory Committee which she co-chairs. She is a graduate of Lynchburg's first Citizens Academy as well as a state initiated advocacy training program, Partners in Policymaking.

She has given her time, her expertise and her heart to advocating for those individuals with disabilities and makes it impossible for us to ignore the issues that affect them. Her goal is to make a difference and she has.

Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome Barbara Salisbury.

JOHN DOYLE, JR.

Name a board or volunteer program and chances are John Doyle has been involved with it. President and owner of The Pettyjohn Company, John believes in giving back to the community. He gladly lends his expertise and time to numerous boards and program including the College Hill Neighborhood School, Keep Lynchburg Beautiful Commission, the Lynchburg Museum System, Lynchburg Mental Health Association, Camp Kum Ba Yah, Lynchburg Academy of Music, Lynchburg Community Diversion Program, and James River Day School.

He currently volunteers as an advisory member for the Center for Advanced Research and Engineering, and as a board member for the Jones Memorial Library. John is also a member of the Natural Bridge Appalachian Trail Conference, Lynchburg Estate Planning Council, Kiwanis Club of Lynchburg, and the Notre Dame Club of the Blue Ridge. And, as if that wasn't enough, he also serves as the board president of the Lynchburg Regional Chamber of Commerce. Ask John why he does the things he does and he'll simply tell you that it's his love for this community and its citizens. Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in congratulating John Doyle!

LOUIE ROBINSON

Louie Robinson saw a need and set his mind and efforts to meeting that need. He and his wife came to Lynchburg in 1996 after he retired from the U.S. Postal Service and quickly became involved in the community. He was volunteering with the Meals on Wheels program when he began noticing that the children he saw along his routes didn't have any place to go after school. That bothered him and he began looking for a solution. Louie became determined to start a Boys and Girls Club of America in Lynchburg. He presented his dream to St. Paul's Episcopal Church and to others in the community and with Louie's determination and their assistance, the dream became reality. Today, boys and girls not only have somewhere to go, they have better opportunities to excel in life.

The Lynchburg Boys and Girls Club officially opened last November at the corner of Madison and 11th Streets. Louie will be the first to say that he didn't do it all himself, others in the community like T.D. Thornton, who donated the building, helped to make it all possible but it was his dream that sparked the effort. The Boys and Girls Club of America offers programs and services that promote and enhance the development of boys and girls by instilling a sense of competence, usefulness, belonging and influence in a safe, fun, positive environment.

Thanks Louie for the vision and for the hard work.

VICE MAYOR'S YOUNG ADULT AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

The following three individuals are being recognized with the Vice Mayor's Award of Excellence. Councilmember Gillette.

TEAL MCCLURE

Our first Young Adult Award recipient is Teal McClure. Teal is no slouch when it comes to volunteerism. She is president of the Lynchburg Junior Woman's Club, a CASA board member, a Rotarian, co-chair of the 2006 Lynchburg Relay for Life, and a frequent volunteer for Lynch's Landing.

Somehow she has also found the time to become a certified EMT with the Lynchburg Lifesaving Crew and she is mentoring two Russian exchange students through Randolph Macon Woman's College. She is active with the young adult ministry at St. Thomas More and treasurer of the local Parrothead Club for all of you Jimmy Buffett fans out there.

Please join me in congratulating this very busy young woman, Teal McClure!

DUANE THOMAS

Our next recipient is Duane Thomas. Duane is a young man that is passionate about young people. He currently works at the Jubilee Family Development Center where he gets to put his passion into action. Duane uses every opportunity to reach out to young people with a listening ear and an understanding heart. He is a graduate of Liberty University and has worked with the City at Opportunity House and Day Service.

When Duane isn't working with young people, he's volunteering with them at the YMCA Churches for Urban Ministry, Court Street Baptist Church, and Kingdom Harvest Church. We honor Duane's passion today and his willingness to reach out to our community's youth. Congratulations Duane.

TRACEY DIXON

Our final Young Adult Award of Excellence recipient may be familiar to you. Tracey Dixon, then Tracey Grau was a news anchor and reporter for WSET-TV. Today, Tracy Dixon doesn't spend much time in front of the camera. She's too busy on the

front lines. Her career path has now led her to non-profit work, starting at Crisis Line of Central Virginia and currently with the Alliance for Families and Children.

As a volunteer, you can find Tracey working as a disaster response volunteer for the Red Cross, tutoring with the Lynchburg Literacy Council, or working on projects with the Junior League of Lynchburg. She has volunteered with Special Olympics and the Lynchburg Humane Society. Tracey is making a difference in this community. Please join me in congratulating Tracy Dixon.



Ladies and Gentlemen, join me in thanking our recipients once again. This ends the formal portion of tonight's festivities. Those of you here with us are invited to join us for a reception in the Galleria. We thank the ten downtown restaurants that have prepared and donated wonderful food for us to enjoy. Good night.

FORMER MAYOR'S AWARD OF EXCELLENCE RECIPIENTS

2005

Aubrey L. Barbour
Jim Brent
Alease Brown
Sissy Davidson
Eleanor "Stevie" Dovel
Walter M. Fore, Jr.
Bruce Habitzruther
Leslie S. Phillips

VICE MAYOR'S YOUNG ADULT AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Jason V. Giambrone
Christine Kennedy

2004

Georgia Barksdale
James K. Candler
A. Anderson Duck
James Mitchell
George Nash
Rosel Schewel
James S. Whitaker

2003

Ronald Dolan
Stuart C. Fauber
Thomas J. Gerdy
Delia Hooks
Laura Munson
Becky Porter
Dr. James H. Taylor

2002

Mary B. Adams
Rev. Bev Cosby (*Posthumously*)
Edwin R. Page
Mary H. Payne
Marc A. Schewel
Lawrence W. Simpson, Jr.
J. F. Taylor, Jr.
Anne R. Wesley

2001

Dr. Jerry L. Falwell
Rodger W. Fauber
Josephine (Jiggie) Holt
Gail B. Jackson
Dr. William F. Quillian, Ph.D.
Irma W. Seiferth
Harry Smith, Jr

2000

Calvin Falwell
Yvonne T. Ferguson
Joan MacCallum
Rev. Herbert Moore
Roland K. Peters
Elliot S. Schewel
Chauncey Spencer

1999

Rev. Nathan C. Brooks, III
Charles F. Church
Rev. Ronald A. Gills, Sr.
Dr. Peter W. Houck
Rev. Haywood Robinson, Jr.
Jane White